

SWEDISH AIR COLONEL HELD AS RUSS SPY

Arrested As 15-Year
Red Agent, Served
Formerly in D.C.

Stockholm, June 4 (AP) —

Swedish Air Force Colonel Stig Erik Wennerstrom, rated by both the United States and France, has been arrested as a Russian spy for the past fifteen years — five of them spent as Swedish air attaché in Washington, the Government disclosed today. It ordered two Russian diplomats expelled.

Angry Swedish reaction to what the Government called the worst spy scandal in the history of traditionally neutral Sweden may force Soviet Premier Khrushchev to cancel a visit to this Scandinavian country for the second time in two years.

Police said Col. Stig Erik Wennerstrom, 57, was arrested last Friday and admitted selling military secrets of Sweden and other countries to the Kremlin. The other countries were not identified but presumably included the United States, which honored him with its Legion of Merit.

NATO Study Made

Well informed sources in Stockholm reported meanwhile that staffs of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Paris and Washington had canceled all leaves pending an investigation into whether Wennerstrom may have given away important secrets about NATO defense.

The newspaper *Dagens Nyheter* said Wennerstrom had delivered allied as well as Swedish defense secrets to the Russian Embassy here and had received payoffs which, the newspaper said, made him one of the best paid Russian spies uncovered so far. The newspaper mentioned no figures in its account, attributed to what it called informed sources.

The State Department said in Washington that the British Government notified the United States in advance of the disclosure of Wennerstrom's case. However, the department declined to comment on his activities while serving as air attaché in Washington from 1942 to 1957.

More Spies Taken

Torsten Mattsson, Swedish Foreign Minister, said today that the Swedish Government had learned of the Russian spy's activities in Washington. According to the latest information here, Williams and the

alleged Russian contacts, including Grigory Nikolsky, the Russian Embassy's military attaché, and George Baranovsky, its first secretary.

Underlining the seriousness with which it viewed the affair, the Government issued a special communique, which said it would watch developments carefully and take the necessary measures as soon as more details are uncovered.

This suggested more disclosures that would embarrass the Soviet Union and force reconsideration of Khrushchev's plan to visit Scandinavia next spring. Khrushchev was to have visited Sweden two years ago but stormy political opposition forced a postponement of that trip.

Prime Minister Tage Erlander returned to the Swedish capital from a vacation, but an aide said he was due back anyway and his return was not directly connected with the spy case.

Confessed Photographs

Wennerstrom, who had twice served at the Swedish Embassy in Moscow, was acting as special disarmament adviser to the Swedish foreign ministry when police picked him up. His other duties included service at the air defense section of the Swedish defense ministry.

A police statement said Wennerstrom confessed he photographed secret documents with a special miniature camera and personally handed over the rolls of film to his Russian contacts. Police said he apparently acted as a lone wolf. Sweden does not have capital punishment, so Wennerstrom faces a maximum penalty of life imprisonment if brought to trial on spy charges.

Wennerstrom was last in the headlines in June, 1957, when his daughter Christine, then 16, ran away in Washington with Senate page boy, Huw Williams.

The two were found in Pennsylvania after an eighteen-day joy ride in a souped-up convertible through the Eastern United States and Canada. Christine was rushed home to Sweden.

Williams, son of a widowed clerk in the Senate mail room, was later convicted of being an accessory to an armed robbery and sentenced to six years in a Federal youth prison.

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